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U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

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PATENT

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING  
DEPOSITED WITH THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS  
MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER  
FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231, ON

February 24, 2003  
Jill Woepe 2-24-03  
SIGNATURE DATE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Bryan W. Shirk et al.  
Serial No. : 09/817,672  
Filing Date : March 26, 2001  
For : BIODEGRADABLE VEHICLE  
COMPONENTS  
Group Art Unit : 3611  
Examiner : Lee S. Lum  
Attorney Docket No. : TRW(VSSIM)4686-1

Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1400

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

This letter responds to the Office Action dated  
August 22, 2002 with respect to the above-identified  
application.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the rejections of claims 1-46 is  
respectfully requested.

Below is a discussion of (i) the 35 U.S.C. §102(e)  
rejection of claims 1 and 2, (ii) the 35 U.S.C. §103(a)  
rejection of claims 3, 8, and 10-13, (iii) the 35 U.S.C.  
§103(a) rejection of claims 4-7 and 9, (iv) the 35 U.S.C.  
§103(a) rejection of claims 14-16, (v) the 35 U.S.C. §103(a)  
rejection of claims 17, 19, 32, and 42, (vi) the 35 U.S.C.

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GROUP 3600